

9/8/68

Dear George,

Many thanks for - and congratulations on - your No. 4. It has information I want to use. First, may I ask for the second issue, which I never received, and next, when you have "evidence", can you send me a second copy, so I can keep a file of one set and have the second for cutting up?

There will be more in Curiel Gonzalez, in the National Enquirer, for example, any day now. What you print is something I'd like to add to my ~~fifth~~ book, COUP D'ETAT, which deals with the three assassinations. Can you send me photocopies of your sources and an extra of the translations? Also a copy of his picture-really, anything you have on him and it?

I fear there is no simple answer to your simple appeal, that the critics stop attacking each other. First of all, Epstein really is not a "critic", not, certainly, in the sense you use it. Next, right or wrong, Sylvia is acting on what she regards as high principle. It has brought about a breach between us, and I think I understand a motivation she has but does not, but I do not doubt her sincerity. The really bad internecine cutting up you are entirely unaware of for you do not really know or understand those who are responsible for it, or their motive, which is not like Sylvia's. I hope you'll be able to drop this subject, for you'll not be able to do any good with it and may work more damage. At some point something will have to be done, if for no other reason, for our own survival. Until it can be done thoroughly and definitively, I, personally, will do nothing public about it, save for such things as what I did with Epstein. On this, Vince, Gary Schooner and several others have asked me to expand that into a book. I can do that in about a week or two of hard, uninterrupted work, and it can be both overwhelming and informative, the vehicle for bringing out new information. But I now have three unpublished books and I will not take the time from other work for the production of another utility. I told them if they arrange publication I will do it. That, however, is not part of the real "war" between the critics. Unfortunately, there are too few people with the knowledge required to understand it - or even to realize it. A large part of it is or is from Mark, who puts on a holy face, is entirely uninhibited in his dishonesties, not the worst of which is endless thievery, and then, with his holiness established, proceeds to do what he can to damage almost anyone else - just about all doing any work. He is, aside from his thorough, intrinsic dishonesty, bugged by his total inability to have brought anything new and significant to light and an incalculable ego that compels him to regard this entire thing as his personal property. These drive him to lengths that cannot be conceived. Bickel, who is wrong on most things, is right in his general observation, fortunately, he doesn't really understand how right. Mark is a liar like no other. For minor example, it is false that 15 publishers agreed to do his book and then backed out. All but one turned it down, and in quite a few cases, for legitimate, literary reasons. The finished, edited thing is nothing like the original. The one exception is Grove, and Mark's abuse of Barney Rosset turned him off, permanently, on this subject, to the hurt of all of us. Mark simply violated his contract, kept the advance, didn't meet the deadline by a considerable length of time and, when he did not have the material for the contracted book, just switched to a format outside the contract. I knew about this from his then-agent, the end of 1965. He was supposed to have the book done and out before the Report was issued. Its contracted publication date was announced, etc. I have corroborated this with the general counsel at Grove, who I know well. The thievery and dishonesty so permeate Citizen's Dissent - and have you noticed how all of this was him alone? - that the legitimate story of the education of the media is without credibility. He has done what scholars of the future will not be able to credit, hence they will not, without independent work, be able to know who did fail and who did not, who did give time and who did not. You were a witness to the beginning of Metromedia's interest and can, to a degree, evaluate that small part of the book. You know who turned them on and how, who tamed Burke, etc. Find a word of it in Citizen's Dissent and look how carefully it is written around.

In turn, because he alone can travel freely, has funds, he is constantly proselytizing, constantly campaigning against, to the degree that on occasions he takes up the cudgels for the other side. Some of it gets back to me because he does not know how close the working relationship is between those of us who really continue the work. Very few still are, and there are a number of new ones unknown to him.

Privately and bluntly, I tell you Garrison will be lucky to survive Garrison. The combination of himself, Mark and Mort may well exhaust his inexhaustible luck. We will be fortunate if we survive that combo, for you can't begin to understand what, at the appropriate moment, the other side, if it ever wises up, can do with what they have already done.

So, it is fine to appeal for unity, but how can the sheep bed with the wolf? It is not as simple as your appeal makes it, and the end result of such appeals is to reflect on those who are the victims rather than those who are the offenders. If you are still interested when I am out there, I'll give you whatever detail and evidence you want, privately. Generally, we can better spend our time in other ways.

Steve Burton is back from Europe and, in LA, is seeking other engagements for me. Hal Verb is back in San Francisco. When between them, there is enough to, with what you can have toward travel expenses, get me out there, I am anxious to go. Not alone to speak and do what you want, but there is much I cannot in any other way communicate to those working on the case. The mail and the phone are too public for some things. I have done an enormous amount of work since I was last there, and knowledge of its yield is valuable to them in their work. I assure you that among most of us really working on the case, there is the best possible liason under the existing conditions. As soon as I hear from either or both of them, I'll be in touch with you and we can set a date. Then, also, the others can line up radio and TV appearances. Especially on radio do I usually manage to turn up witnesses and new information out there. Last time there were seven or eight cases, and some of the material was very worthwhile. Even Minutemen, really! This time I had other potentially important new things to try, by way of bringing public pressures on someone, who just may turn on.

Hope you are all well and happy. Some say this week your dad will get the manuscript of CPUP D'ETAT, from a correspondent who is reading it, and we'll have his appraisal. It needs editing and is not quite as complete as it will be when there is, if there ever is, prospect of publication.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg